(b) if so, whether on the other hand Kelkar Committee has stated that the tax incidence of various income groups would be much less and not more as claimed in certain quarters;

(c) whether Government have fully considered this and if so, to what extent Raj Nath panel set up by Government to Kelkar report has given final approval to the Kelkar Committees's report; and

(d) what is Government's final decision in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir.

(c) and (d) Sir, the issues raised by the Hon'ble Member relate to tax policy. At present, when the Budgetary exercise is in process, it will not be possible to respond to the question.

Separate apex body for UCBs

661. SHRI V.V. RAGHAVAN:
SHRI J. CHITHARANJAN:
SHRI VIJAY J. DARDA:

Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Joint Parliamentary Committee (JPC) on stock market scam has endorsed the Reserve Bank of India's proposal for setting up a separate apex body to regulate the entire Urban Co-operative Sector; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the action taken, if any, in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL): (a) and (b) Reserve Bank of India (RBI) had submitted a proposal to Central Government for setting up an exclusive apex body for the supervision of urban cooperative banks in view of duality of control prevailing in the cooperative banking sector. The proposal was examined and it was found that without legislative changes in the State Co-operative Societies Acts recommended by Ch. Brahm Perkash Committee, apex

supervisory body as suggested would suffer from similar legislative handicap that RBI suffers today. Therefore, State Governments have been advised to modify the State Cooperative Societies Act, in line with the Model Cooperative Act. Simultaneously, besides taking measures to revitalize the cooperative credit system, the efforts of the Union Government are also directed towards making necessary changes in Banking Regulation Act, 1949 to further expand the jurisdiction of RBI over cooperative Banks.

Recovery of indirect taxes

†662. SHRIMATI SAROJ DUBEY:
SHRI MOOLCHAND MEENA:

Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that during current financial year the recovery of indirect taxes is unlikely to be according to the Budget estimates;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps taken to meet the Budget estimates?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN): (a) and (b) As per departmental records, the central excise and customs revenue have registered 16.31 percent and 11.44 percent growth respectively during 2002-2003 (April 2002 to January 2003) over corresponding period of the last year, Similarly, the Service Tax has registered 24.72 percent growth during 2002-2003 (April 2002 to January 2003) over corresponding period of last year. A number of exemptions were also made throughout the year including reduction in excise duty on petrol and diesel. Service tax on life insurance services was also exempted. The draught in the country has also affected the growth of the economy. In view of this, it may not be possible at this point of time to estimate with any fair degree of accuracy, the indirect tax collection for the financial year 2002-2003.

(b) A number of steps are being taken to achieve the budget estimate. These include rationalization of tariff structure, review and withdrawal of

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.